

## Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-03

/018 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY EA MR. MILLER

EA/LC-MR. HENDERSON

SCS-MS. TUCKER

----- 081636

P R 272319Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CDES, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: CHARLES DEAN

REF: STATE 117845

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1. HOWARD DEAN INFORMED DEPTOFF MAY 27 THAT FAMILY HELD MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CHARLES MAY 24 AND IS PROCEEDING WITH LEGAL STEPS TO HAVE HIM PRESUMED DEAD AS OF DECEMBER 14, 1974. HOWARD SAYS FAMILY FEELS THIS IS RIGHT STEP TO TAKE SO AS NOT ENDLESSLY TO PROLONG THE UNCERTAINTY. HE IS PLACING NOTICE OF DEATH IN NEW YORK TIMES MAY 28.

2. IN LIGHT OF THIS, DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS EMBASSY ISSUE FS-192, REPORT ON THE PRESUMPTIVE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, FOR CHARLES MAITLAND DEAN, LISTING DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH AS ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 14 AT KHAM KEHT AND CAUSE OF DEATH AS: "MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD WHILE A-PRISONER OF COMMUNIST FORCES." DISPOSITION OF REMAINS: UNKNOWN; LOCAL LAW AS TO DISINTERRING REMAINS, NOT APPLICABLE; OCCUPATION, TOURIST. COPY OF REPORT SHOULD BE SENT TO DEPT. AND TO MR. HOWARD DEAN, 1035 PARK AVE., NEW  
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YORK, N.Y. 10028.

3. MR. DEAN INFORMED NEIL SHARMAN'S UNCLE IN NEW YORK CITY.  
SUGGEST EMBASSY INFORM AUSTRALIANS IN VIENTIANE.

4. THIS LEGAL ACTION TAKEN BY DEAN FAMILY IN CONFORMANCE  
WITH NEW YORK STATE LAWS DOES NOT CHANGE OUR COMMITMENT TO  
CONTINUE TO PRESS LPF AUTHORITIES FOR INFORMATION ON DEAN/  
SHARMAN AND FOR THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF WHAT  
HAPPENED TO THEM. AS IN THE CASE OF OUR MILITARY MIA'S,  
A LEGAL PRESUMPTIVE OF DEATH DOES NOT LESSEN OUR COMMIT-  
MENT, OR THE COMMUNIST SIDE'S OBLIGATION, TO ACCOUNT FOR  
THESE PERSONS TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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